



The Christian Funeral Guide

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GENERAL NOTES

1. **The Funeral Service** is intended for the burial of those who departed this life in the Christian faith and includes a Service at the church as well as a Committal at the place of interment.
2. **The death of a member of Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church** should be reported immediately to the pastor(s). No arrangements should be made without consultation with him.
3. **Whenever possible, the Funeral Service of baptized members** is conducted at the church.
4. **Hymns and music** in the Funeral Service should reflect Christian confidence, trust, and hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
5. **The liturgical color** for the Funeral Service is the color of the season or day.
6. **Floral arrangements** express the Christian hope in the resurrection of the body. It is preferable that they not be placed on the casket or altar during the Funeral Service.
7. **The Funeral Service may be used as a Memorial Service** by omitting the "Placing of the Pall" and its rubric before the Nunc Dimittis.
8. **A eulogy** is not in the best Christian tradition within a Christian Service. An obituary may be read which focuses on the Gospel promise of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ our Lord, and not on the good deeds of the deceased. The funeral luncheon is a better occasion to eulogize and share memories!
9. **Appropriate messages of Christian condolence** may be given after the Lord's Prayer.
10. **The ceremonies or tributes of social or other societies have no place within the service of the Church.** Civic and military ceremonies or tributes should be held after the service of the Church, normally following the Committal.

CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

1. **The “Funeral Service”** from our hymnal, the Lutheran Service Book, is used as found on page 278.
2. **A hymn or psalm** may be sung or said, or appropriate organ or instrumental music may be played as the pastor leads the casket and the bereaved into the church. When there is no procession, the service begins when the pastor takes his customary place.
3. **The procession** into the church may be in this order: cross, torches, assisting ministers, pastor(s), casket and pallbearers, the bereaved, and other honored guests.
4. **Prior to the service**, the lighted paschal candle is placed near the center of the chancel, preferably near the head of the casket. When torches are included in the procession, they may be placed at the head and foot of the casket. The cross is placed in its customary place.
5. **The casket** is positioned before the altar at right angles to it. It is customary that the foot of the casket is positioned closest to the altar. For the funeral of a pastor, the head of the casket is positioned closest to the altar.
6. **When the Invocation and Remembrance of Baptism** are conducted at the entrance to the nave, the congregation stands and faces the entrance of the church. Following the Remembrance of Baptism, the pall is placed on the casket, and the procession proceeds into the nave during the Introit, Psalm, or Entrance Hymn.
7. **The Kyrie** may be spoken as provided in the rite, or a setting of the Kyrie familiar to the congregation may be sung.
8. **Readings** may include those previously used by the pastor in his ministry to the deceased. Readings of the Sunday or season in the Church Year may also be used.
9. **A choice of psalms** is provided for the Introit and Gradual (see Appendix).
10. **The Verse** may be spoken or sung as provided in the rite, or a setting familiar to the congregation may be used.
11. **When an obituary is read**, it may be read in connection with the Sermon. Examples are provided in the Appendix.
12. **When there is Holy Communion**, the Prayer of the Church in the Funeral Service is followed by the Offertory and communion liturgy according to one of the settings of the Divine Service. Following the Distribution, the Funeral Service continues with the Nunc Dimittis in the Funeral Service.
13. **The Funeral Service** does not conclude at church, but rather at the place of committal.
14. **The procession out of the church** forms in the same order as it entered. The cross may be taken to the place of committal.
15. **The pall** is removed at the church door and left in the church.

ORDER OF CHURCH SERVICE

LSB page 278

A procession may take place and a hymn or psalm may be sung or spoken.

Stand

INVOCATION

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM *The casket is covered with the funeral pall.*

INTROIT, PSALM, or ENTRANCE HYMN KYRIE

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT or FIRST READING PSALM or GRADUAL

EPISTLE or SECOND READING

Stand

VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL APOSTLES' CREED

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

When there is Holy Communion, the service continue with the Offertory in the Divine Service; otherwise, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Following the Lord's Prayer (or the Distribution when there is Holy Communion), the pastor takes his place at the casket.

NUNC DIMITTIS CONCLUDING COLLECT

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

A hymn may be sung as the casket is led in procession out of the church.

COMMITTAL NOTES

1. **The Committal** is used for interment in a place previously set apart for burial. When burial is in a public cemetery, the collect for the blessing of a grave is used. The Committal is also appropriate for the disposition of a body at sea.
2. **In the case of cremation**, the ashes are to be buried or interred at a cemetery plot, mausoleum, crypt, or columbarium. The practice of scattering the ashes of the deceased to the elements is discouraged among Christians.
3. **When circumstances require that burial occur at a later date**, the Committal may include a sermon following the Scripture reading(s). The Apostles' Creed may also be confessed.
4. **When feasible, the procession** to the place of burial may form in the same order as at the Funeral Service, led by the processional cross. At the very least, the Pastor leads the casket and bereaved to the place of burial.
5. **The pastor may remain with the casket at the graveside** until all the bereaved have left the cemetery as a sign of the eternal presence of Christ with the departed.
6. **When the deceased was a member of the armed forces**, military honors may follow the Committal.
7. **If sand or earth is used during the Committal**, it is never poured directly on the national flag. The head of the casket may be slightly uncovered for the application of the sand/earth, after which the head of the casket may again be covered.

ORDER OF COMMITTAL

PROCESSION

During the procession, appropriate hymns or psalms may be spoken or sung (Psalm 118; Psalm 130; Nunc Dimittis: Luke 2:29-32; Job 19:23-27; John 11:25-26; Psalm 16; Psalm 121).

When all have arrived at the place of interment, the pastor stands at the head of the casket or next to the urn.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVE PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(John 12:23-26; 1 Cor. 15:42-49, 51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-17)

When the Committal does not immediately follow the Funeral Service, the Apostles' Creed is confessed.

COMMITTAL & PRAYER LORD'S PRAYER PRAYER

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

BENEDIC

I. WHO MAY RECEIVE A CHRISTIAN BURIAL

We must realize that the Pastors are ready and eager to bring the Gospel to anyone and everyone! However, the funeral is a worship service to our God and it is a witness to the life that the deceased confessed by lip and by action.

Christian funerals are worship services of Christian people, NOT a matter of doing personal favors for families. The Pastor does not officiate merely to satisfy or please people. Some ministers will conduct funerals whenever asked to do so, thinking they will have the opportunity to reach the living. They have forgotten that Christian burial is a privilege for those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and have believed, as witnessed by what they confessed by words and deeds, that they believe in the God of the resurrection, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

All who have turned away from the word of God while they were living should not, according to Scripture, be accorded this privilege. Jesus says in Luke 9:60: **“LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR OWN DEAD, BUT YOU GO AND PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”** That is, let the spiritually dead, those who do not follow Jesus by faith, let them bury their own dead. It is a word of law to those who live and believe contrary to Jesus' teaching of the forgiveness of sins alone in Him. And therefore, Jesus says **“IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD, YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES INDEED”** (John 8:31). One who does not **“abide”** or **“remain”** with Jesus, hear His Word, is not one of Jesus' sheep (John 10:27).

No Christian pastor or congregation can afford to pretend in life and death matters; those who have turned away from the Word, from Christ, and from the church while they were alive gain nothing from hypocrisy at death. **“FOR....THE WORD PREACHED DID NOT PROFIT THEM, NOT BEING MIXED WITH FAITH IN THEM THAT HEARD IT”** (Heb. 4: 2,3)

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church does rejoice when another one of God's children is transported from the church militant to the church of glory and triumph above. We confess that the deceased is still our brother or sister; a true member of Christ's Holy Body, the church; one who lived and died in the faith; and one whom we sincerely expect to meet again in glory. And we join the family of the deceased in their sorrow, but also rejoice with them that their loved one has been graciously delivered from this vale of tears to the heavenly city above.

And we stress that the hour of departure from this life shall come to all men; therefore, we must cling ever more tightly to the Word and the Sacraments. For Satan **“PROWLS AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR”** (1Peter 5:8).

II. THE PASTORS OF ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BEAR A PROPER AND POSITIVE WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL WHEN THEY OFFICIATES AT FUNERALS USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. The deceased was a member in good standing of Advent Evangelical's congregation. Members residing out of town for various reasons (Armed Forces, college, retirement residence, etc.) would also be buried by the Pastors of Advent by virtue of their membership in good standing (regular church attendance or regular reception of the Lord's Supper).
Where the above may not apply in full to the deceased, the survivor(s) may affirm that the deceased died as a Christian, that is, the deceased confessed that he was sorry for his sins and that Christ was his Savior from his sins.
2. The deceased was a member in good standing of a sister congregation in the Missouri Synod. The survivor(s) stated valid reasons for the wish of the deceased to be buried here.
3. The deceased was a non-member who was in the process of becoming a member; or the deceased was a person to whom the Pastor has ministered and who seems to have departed this life in the Christian faith.
4. The deceased was not a member of a lodge or any secret society that goes against the doctrine and practice of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
5. Exceptional cases of non-members and other situations will be reviewed by a representative group of elders at the request of the Pastor. The elders may grant the requested permission in the case of a non-member, if, for example, the survivors affirm that the deceased died a Christian, that is, with faith in Jesus Christ alone as Savior.

III. PURPOSE OF A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

1. This is a time to hear the comforting words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
2. A time to proclaim to all the power and grace of God and He is the God of the resurrection;
3. To remember our hope that as Jesus rose from the dead, we will too as children of the resurrection;
4. We need to give public witness to our joy, faith and hope in Christ our Lord;
5. We need to be comforted with the assurance of our reunion with our loved ones in the resurrection;
6. To know that we can face death because Christ has taken the sting out of death and has delivered us from the power of sin, death, and the devil;
7. To praise our God for His faithfulness in keeping all His promises even the promise death is not the end, but an entering of eternal glory with Him above.

IV. INITIAL PROCEDURES TO GUIDE YOU

1. Call the Pastor whenever there is an illness so he can bring the comfort of the Gospel to the sick or dying in the family.
2. When death occurs, notify the Pastor prior to calling the funeral director if at all possible. This will allow time for consultation about the specific funeral plans without outside influence or pressure.
3. A Christian funeral should be conducted in the Church if it is possible. This is the time for the Christian to gather around God's Word, sing praises and give thanks to Him. This is a time of worship in hearing God's Word and responding with songs of praise and hope.
If the family member was not a member of Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, or a sister LC-MS congregation, please consult with Pastor because funerals for non-members are not permitted in the Nave of the church. Special consideration can be given upon approval by Pastor and the Elders.
4. The casket may be open until the start of the worship service. From then on our eyes need to be focused on God's word of hope and strength, God's Gospel, not the face of death.
5. Arrangements of the funeral service.
 - a. The funeral director and Pastor will contact each other to avoid conflicts of schedules, etc.
 - b. The Pastor is in charge of the worship service including the final approval of the selection of the music. Some music may be nice and even pleasant, but not in line with God's Scripture and confusing Law and Gospel. Hymns of comfort, of faith in Christ, and the resurrection (Easter Hymns) are very appropriate to sing.
6. The Order of Service will follow the Lutheran Service Book Agenda unless specifically arranged with the Pastor.
7. The Worship service and burial service shall not include any participation by secular groups. Excepted is the case of military funerals, where Taps and salutes by comrades in arms are permitted, provided there be no orations.
8. Unionistic services, where officials of other beliefs participate, shall not be permitted.
9. Memorial gifts may be given to the church memorial fund or to the Foundation Fund.
10. Picture memorials may be set up in the Narthex, the Library and/or the Fellowship Hall for viewing during the Visitation and/or Luncheon.
11. FEES:
 - a. Funerals are a regular part of pastoral care to you and the Pastor expects no fee from his members. However, an honorarium in appreciation for the time and effort of the Pastor is always appropriate (\$150-250).
 - b. The congregation organist shall be given an honorarium for her time and effort (\$150).
 - c. If special Pastor-approved music is purchased by the organist or the soloist, they will be reimbursed for the cost of the material.
 - d. If a lunch is to be served, please speak with the Pastor to make arrangements.

V. OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. A Memorial Service

Since a Christian funeral is a worship service of the congregation and because services held in the morning or the afternoon may permit only a small circle of friends to attend, the idea of a memorial service is growing among Christians.

A Memorial service held at the church in the evening either before or after the graveside service can be a very wonderful testimony of a congregation to its hope of the resurrection in Christ and its oneness as His body of believers.

It should be mentioned that it is not improper to leave the body of the deceased unattended in the church for the evening of the Memorial service. It is also not necessary for the body to be present during a memorial service. A memorial service may be done in case of a still-born baby. He/she was one of God's wonderful creations and a part of that family's life. It is a wonderful way to leave all these mysterious happenings in the hands of Him who knows all things. It is also a time to renew faith and trust in Jesus.

2. Consider your choice of grave markers:

By your choice of design and inscription on the monument or marker over a Christian grave, we can witness to our faith and show what St. Paul meant when he wrote:

"FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN" (Phil. 1:21).

The custom of monument or the newer type marker over a grave stems from the love expressed in the first book of the Bible: **"AND JACOB SET A PILLAR ON HER GRAVE, WHICH IS THE PILLAR OF RACHEL'S GRAVE TO THIS DAY"** (Genesis 35: 20).

MONUMENTS & MARKERS SHOULD AIM BY DESIGN & EPITAPH TO:

1. Reflect our Christian knowledge and hope;
2. Serve as a God-pleasing tribute to our departed loved ones at home with God;
3. Stimulate hope and comfort in the hearts of those who mourn.

DESIGNS:

CROSS	—symbol of the finished redemption
ROSE	—symbol of our Lord, love, and hope
IVY	—symbol of memory “I will not forget you.”
VIOLET	—symbol of faithfulness - “God is faithful”
LILY	—symbol of heaven - “In Your presence is fullness of joy.”
NARCISSUS	—symbol of grace
SEASHELL	—symbol of Baptism

Other symbols with obvious meanings: The Guardian Angel, a Lamb, a vine with grape cluster, open Bible, Morning of Glory, etc.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Some Christians have determined to set aside a percentage of their estate for the work of Christ.
2. Some Christians remember God’s command to **“Make disciples of all nations”** by putting aside a portion of God’s treasures that He has given into their will. By so doing, they testify to God’s goodness and mercy and to the necessity of proclaiming the Gospel to the world.

SUGGESTED PROPERs FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE

The psalms, hymns, and readings in boldface should be given special consideration due to long standing usage in the Funeral Service.

PSALMODY

The following psalms may be used in the Funeral Service at the Introit, Psalm, or Gradual, of the Procession when leaving the church. Suggested antiphons are given in parentheses.

Psalm 16	You make know to me the path of life
Psalm 17:6-15	When I awake I will be satisfied
Psalm 23	I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Psalm 25:1-5, 15-20	Guard my soul and deliver me
Psalm 27	I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
Psalm 31:7-24	Into your hand I commit my Spirit
Psalm 34:1-9	Fear the Lord, you his saints
Psalm 39:4-13	My hope is in you
Psalm 42	Let them bring me to your holy hill
Psalm 46	The Lord of hosts is with us
Psalm 63:1-8	My soul thirst for you
Psalm 65:1-8	Blessed is the one you choose and bring near
Psalm 71:14-24	From the depths of the earth you bring me up
Psalm 73:23-28	Afterward you will receive me to glory
Psalm 84	Blessed are those who dwell in your house
Psalm 90	Satisfy us with your steadfast love
Psalm 102	The children of your servants will dwell secure
Psalm 103:1-18	He redeems your life from the pit
Psalm 116:1-9, 15	Precious in the sight of the Lord
Psalm 118:1-21	This is the gate of the Lord
Psalm 121	My help comes from the Lord
Psalm 122	Let us go to the house of the Lord
Psalm 126	Those who sow in tears will reap with joy
Psalm 130	Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 139	When I awake I am still with you
Psalm 143	For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life
Psalm 146	I will praise the Lord as long as I live

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 12:15b-23	King David looks to the resurrection of his son
1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah raises the widow's son
2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises the Shunammite's son
Job 5:6-7, 17-26	Job's friend speaks of God's wounding and healing
Job 14:1-17	Job speaks of his mortality
Job 19:21-27	Job confesses his faith in the resurrection
Ecclesiastes 12:1-7	Remember your creator
Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord God will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 26:1-4, 19	Your dead will live
Isaiah 35:3-10	Sorrow and sighing will flee away
Isaiah 40:6-11	He will tend his flock like a shepherd
Isaiah 40:27-31	He gives strength to the weary
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 25	Fear not . . . you are mine
Isaiah 46:3-4	Even to your old age I am he
Isaiah 49:13-16	I will not forget you
Isaiah 53:1-12	The man of sorrows
Isaiah 57:1-2	The righteous find rest
Isaiah 61:1-3, 10	To comfort all who mourn
Isaiah 65:17-25	New heavens and a new earth
Jeremiah 31:15-17	Rachel mourns for her children
Lamentations 3:22-23	His compassions never fail
Daniel 12:1-3	Those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake

These readings may be used during the Easter season when the Three-Year Lectionary is followed.

Acts 2:14a, 22-32	God raised Jesus from the dead
Acts 9:36-42	Peter raises Dorcas from the dead
Acts 10:34-43	God raised Jesus from the dead
Acts 13:26-33a	God raised Jesus from the dead

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1-11

Christ died for us

Romans 5:17-21

Justification brings life for all

Romans 6:3-10

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection

Romans 8:14-23

We share in Christ's sufferings and glory

Romans 8:31-39

Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ

Romans 14:7-9

Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

In Christ all will be made alive

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

The one who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Away from the body and at home with the Lord

Philippians 3:8-11

Knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection

Philippians 3:20-21

Our citizenship is in heaven

Colossians 3:1-4

You have been raised with Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The dead in Christ will rise first

2 Timothy 2:8-13

If we died with him, we will also live with him

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race

Hebrews 2:14-18

By his death he destroyed death

Hebrews 4:6-11

The Sabbath rest of God

Hebrews 11:1-2, 13-16

Aliens and strangers on earth

Hebrews 12:1-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 13:12-14, 20-21

The God of peace who raised the Lord Jesus

James 4:13-17

What is your life?

1 Peter 1:3-9

A living hope through the resurrection of Christ

1 John 3:1-2

We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is

Revelation 7:9-17

Standing before the throne in front of the Lamb

Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

Revelation 19:4-9

Blessed are those invited to the wedding of the Lamb

Revelation 21:1-7

A new heaven and a new earth

Revelation 22:1-5

The Lord God will be their light

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-20

Herod murders the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem

Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are you ...

Matthew 11:25-30

Rest for the weary

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Unless you turn and become as children

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom, comes

Matthew 25:31-40

Come, take your inheritance prepared for you

Matthew 27:45-54; 28:1-6

Jesus' death and resurrection

Mark 5:35-43

Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus

Mark 10:13-16

Little children are brought to Jesus

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

Jesus' death and resurrection

Luke 2:25-32

Lord, let your servant go in peace

Luke 2:36-38

Anna spoke to all looking forward to the redemption

Luke 7:11-17

Jesus raises the young man of Nain

Luke 12:16-21

This night your soul is required of you

Luke 16:19-31

The angels carried him to Abraham's side

Luke 23:33, 39-43

Today you will be with me in paradise

Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6a

Jesus' death and resurrection

John 3:16-18

God so loved the world

John 4:46-53

Come down before my child dies

John 5:24-30

He has passed over from death to life

John 6:27-40

I will raise him up at the last day

John 6:51-58

Whoever feeds on my flesh has eternal life

John 10:11-16

I am the Good Shepherd

John 10:27-30

I give them eternal life

John 11:17-27

I am the resurrection and the life

John 11:32-45

Lazarus, come out!

John 12:23-28

Whoever hates his life in this world will keep it

John 14:1-6

I am the way, and the truth, and the life

John 19:16b-18, 25-30

Jesus' death

HYMNS FOR FUNERALS

- | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| 438 | A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth | 672 | Jerusalem the Golden |
| 878 | Abide with Me | 741 | Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense |
| 596 | All Christians Who Have Been Baptized | 490 | Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won |
| 753 | All for Christ I Have Forsaken | 743 | Jesus, Priceless Treasure |
| 601 | All Who Believe and Are Baptized | 708 | Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart |
| 477 | Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven | 484 | Make Songs of Joy |
| 633 | At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 747 | No Saint on Earth Lives Life to Self Alone |
| 467 | Awake, My Heart, with Gladness | 880 | Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow |
| 697 | Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death | 552 | O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life |
| 676 | Behold a Host, Arrayed in White | 395 | O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright |
| 725 | Children of the Heavenly Father | 449 | O Sacred Head, Now Wounded |
| 509 | Christ Is Surely Coming | 450 | O Sacred Head, Now Wounded |
| 458 | Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 679 | Oh, How Blest Are They |
| 420 | Christ, the Life of All the Living | 675 | Oh, What Their Joy |
| 605 | Father Welcomes | 598 | Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters |
| 677 | For All the Saints | 671 | Sing with All the Saints in Glory |
| 742 | For Me to Live Is Jesus | 508 | The Day Is Surely Drawing Near |
| 607 | From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee | 709 | The King of Love My Shepherd Is |
| 594 | God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It | 710 | The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want |
| 740 | I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 758 | The Will of God Is Always Best |
| 461 | I Know That My Redeemer Lives | 762 | There Is a Time for Everything |
| 486 | If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death | 482 | This Joyful Eastertide |
| 724 | If God Himself Be for Me | 516 | Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying |
| 748 | I'm But a Stranger Here | 760 | What God Ordains Is Always Good |
| 745 | In God, My Faithful God | 730 | What Is the World to Me |
| 938 | In Peace and Joy I Now Depart | 764 | When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love |
| 755 | In the Very Midst of Life | 763 | When Peace, like a River |
| 483 | With High Delight Let Us Unite | | |

During Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, seasonal hymns such as the following may also be appropriate:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| 397 | As with Gladness Men of Old | 334 | O Lord, How Shall I Meet You |
| 364 | Away in a Manger | 355 | O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide |
| 347 | Comfort, Comfort Ye My People | 376 | Once in Royal David's City |
| 349 | Hark the Glad Sound | 348 | The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns |
| 380 | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | 402 | The Only Son from Heaven |
| 386 | Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | | |

OBITUARY

An obituary may be printed and/or read. If it is read in the Funeral Service, it may occur before the Invocation or in connection with the Sermon. Several options are printed below. They may be adapted according to circumstance and expanded to include additional information, such as the church and location of the deceased's Baptism and Confirmation. When published, the place of burial may also be included.

Example 1

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant *name*.

Full name was given life by *his/her* creator and was born on *date*, the child of *name of father* and *name of mother*. On *date*, *he/she* received the gift of Holy Baptism and became a child of God. On *date*, *he/she* publicly confessed *his/her* faith and was confirmed. *He/She* received the precious gift of the Lord's life-giving body and blood. On *date*, *he/she* received the gift of a beloved companion in *his/her* spouse, _____. *He/She* was blessed with the gift of children (a child), *name(s) of children*. God blessed *name's* life with many special people as *he/she* served God in *his/her* vocations at home, church, work, and in the community. Finally, on *date* God blessed *name* with a holy death and took *him/her* home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our *brother/sister name*.

Example 2

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant *name*.

Full name, son/daughter of name of father and name of mother was born in on *date*. *He/She* was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit on *date*. *He/She* confessed *his/her* baptismal faith in the rite of Confirmation on *date* and was admitted to the altar to receive the medicine of immortality, Christ's life-giving body and blood. *Name* was joined together in holy matrimony to *name of spouse* on *date*. On *date, name*, at the age of _____ years, fell asleep in Jesus. *He/She* is survived by _____. *He/She* is predeceased by _____. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our *brother/sister name*.

Example 3

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant name.

Full name was born in on date to parents name of father and name of mother. He/She was reborn as a child of God in the waters of Holy Baptism on date. On date, he/she was confirmed in the Christian faith and was fed the life-giving body and blood of Jesus. He/She was united in holy marriage to name of spouse on date and blessed with _____ years of married life together. God also blessed them with the gift of children (a child): name(s) of child(ren). On date, God called name home to heaven. He/She is survived by _____. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother/sister name.



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